

IOWN GLOBAL FORUM LIAISON PROGRAM

# Towards Open Innovation Ecosystems

APRIL 2025

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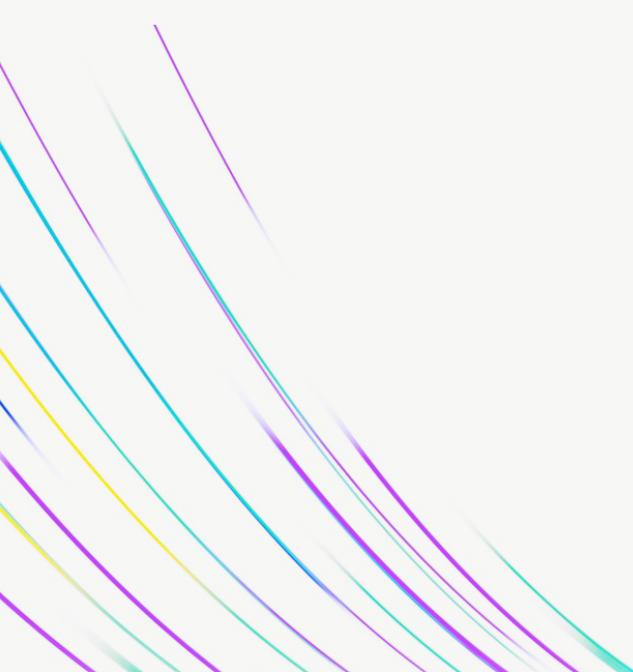
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PART ONE

# About IOWN Global Forum

# Introduction



**HANS WERNER BITZER**  
**CHAIR, IOWN GLOBAL FORUM LIAISON WG**  
**PRINCIPAL STANDARDIZATION ENGINEER, NEC LABORATORIES EUROPE**

Today's world has experienced faster-than-ever growth thanks to advancements in communication and computing technologies. Another quantum leap in computing and communication capabilities is expected to help the world reach the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations to achieve a better future for all.

This effort will demand industry-wide collaboration, global behavior shifts, and tremendous technological advances. The IOWN Global Forum is committed to developing the technologies needed to deliver on this promise of a better world that improves how humans live and interact with technology and each other.

The IOWN Global Forum's objective is to accelerate innovation and adoption of a new communication infrastructure to meet our future data and computing requirements through the development of new technologies, frameworks, specifications, and reference designs in areas such as photonic networks, distributed computing, digital twin computing, as well as use cases and best practices for each of these technology segments.

The IOWN Global Forum and its members support the cooperative and open approaches to innovation by the established global scientific, technological, and standardization communities, which have led to the successful development of breakthroughs in new services and solutions. The IOWN Global Forum is determined to be an active member and citizen-in-good standing of these communities.

As a result, the Forum intends to cooperate closely and engage collaboratively with external organizations operating in these arenas to align and complement the various aspects of its respective work and standardization efforts. To enable such partnerships, the IOWN Global Forum has established a liaison program and has begun engagements with several partner organizations.

Please use this document as an initial source to understand the IOWN Global Forum's goals, its structure, and the mechanisms it uses to initiate and maintain liaison relationships. Do not hesitate to address any comments, questions, or suggestions you have to the IOWN Global Forum's Liaison Working Group: [liaison@iowngf.org](mailto:liaison@iowngf.org)—or any member of the Forum's leadership.

## Vision 2030 Objectives: A Smarter, Better World For All

The IOWN Global Forum aims to bring together like-minded companies to create a more intelligent world that improves the daily lives of billions of people. Its vision is to create a pervasive next-generation communication infrastructure with inherent intelligence that addresses critical societal challenges tuned to the global population's immediate environment, thus enriching their day-to-day experience by 2030.

The IOWN Global Forum, collaborating

with best-in-class partners across multiple industries, will focus on society's major technological challenges, including our ever-increasing power consumption and data transfer, storage, and processing demands.

The IOWN Global Forum's Vision 2030 seeks to remove barriers to achieving a more intelligent world by looking beyond current technologies to build a new communications infrastructure capable of offering new services and fostering sustainability (Figure 1).

### IOWN GLOBAL FORUM VISION 2030 OBJECTIVES

In order to solve various social issues and realize a smarter world, by 2030, IOWN Global Forum will achieve:



Lower power  
consumption by

100x



Higher transmission  
capacity by

125x



Lower end-to-end  
latency by

200x

Figure 1



Gonzalo Camarillo presenting at the IOWN Global Forum 2025 April Annual Member Meeting and FUTURES in Stockholm, Sweden.

## The IOWN Global Forum's Road Map

The IOWN Global Forum is focused on driving the development of future communications and computing infrastructure to create a more connected and efficient society. The innovative structure of the Forum imbues the organization with unique characteristics and values that allow it to deliver multiple distinct benefits to the market. By applying these values, the Forum provides immense benefits to the global technology industry by focusing on two key technology segments: **IOWN Networking** and **IOWN Computing**. For a more detailed description, please refer to the Forum's publication [IOWN GLOBAL FORUM: KEY VALUES AND TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION ROADMAP \(2024/Oct\)](#). This document maps specific metrics to the overall 2030 timeline of the Forum for both technology segments, provides the current status of how IOWN technologies have addressed certain metrics, and maps how the development of PoCs has advanced the adoption and scaling of IOWN technologies thus far.

The Forum recognizes the importance of this collaborative and interconnected approach and actively promotes cooperation across computer and networking technologies. Working together maximizes the possibility of synergistic advancements and optimizations. The Forum endeavors to link networking and computing innovations, guaranteeing they complement and strengthen one another. This collaborative approach paves the way for a more efficient and interconnected environment where both areas' advantages may be fully realized.



Arthur Chang of Pegatron Corporation, an IOWN Global Forum Member, highlights Proof of Concept activities at the Forum's MWC 2025 booth.

# IOWN Global Forum Status Update



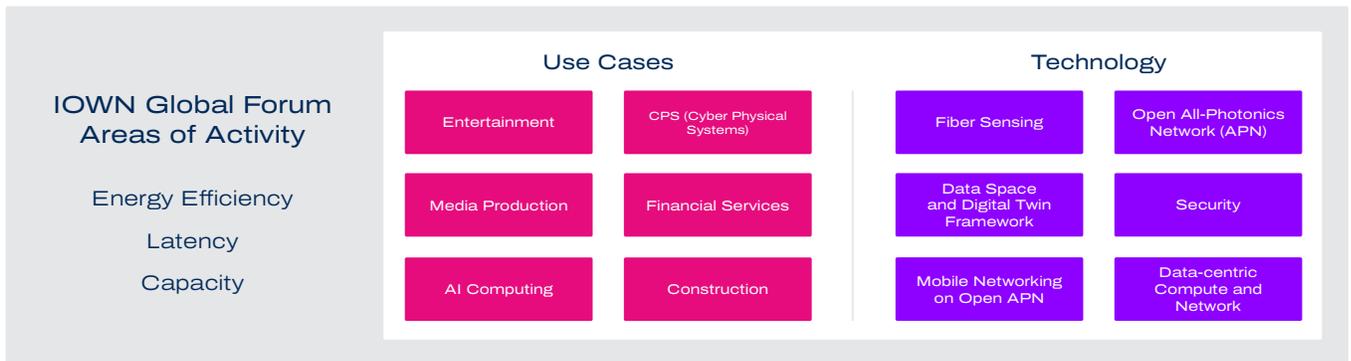
## ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ 5 Technical Outlook Papers
- ✓ 8 Use Cases Reports
- ✓ 7 Functional Architecture Documents
- ✓ 3 Reference Implementation Model (RIM) Reports
- ✓ 10 PoC References
- ✓ 1 RIM and PoC Reference for Early Adoption Use Case
- ✓ 1 White Paper

## FOCUS ON DRIVING MARKET SUCCESS TO ACHIEVE THE NEXT GENERATION COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- » Update Reference Architectures and Technologies\*
- » Develop Early Adoption Use Cases
- » Drive product and market readiness
- » Drive go-to-market activities (by members)
- » Exploit new market applicability
- » Enhance collaboration with relevant forums

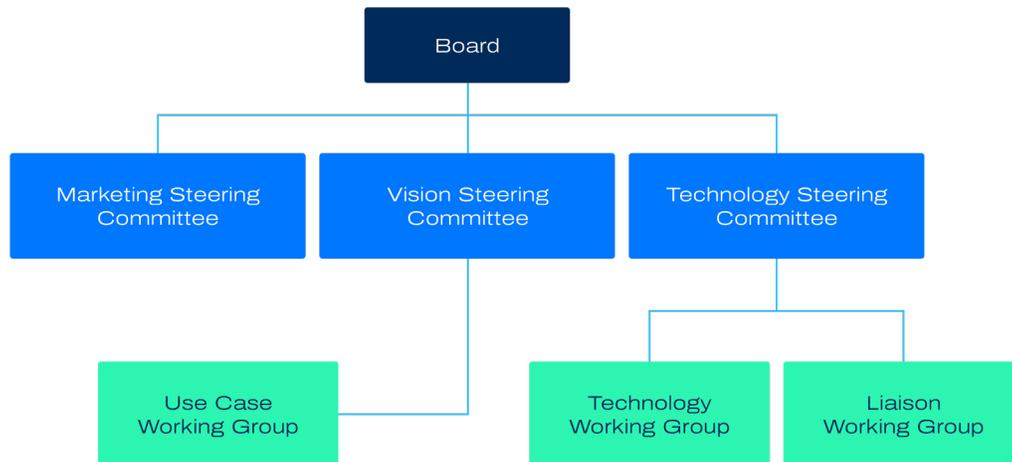
*\*Detail available in IOWN Global Forum's Key Values and Technology Evolution Roadmap*



Chris Wright, IOWN Global Forum Director, speaks during an IOWN Global Forum panel at Mobile World Congress Barcelona 2025.

# Organization Chart

A diagram displaying the corporate structure of the IOWN Global Forum.



## Description of Functions

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Make final decisions regarding the direction of the Forum.

### STEERING COMMITTEES:

- **MARKETING STEERING COMMITTEE:** Design and execute marketing activities to raise awareness of the IOWN Global Forum and recruit member candidates.
- **VISION STEERING COMMITTEE:** Oversee, coordinate, and align Working Groups (WG) related to users, customers, business values, and services.
  - » **USE CASE WORKING GROUP:** Discuss potential use case ideas and requirements.
- **TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE:** Oversee the Working Groups' operations, facilitate communication between the Working Groups, and resolve inter-Working Group issues.
  - » **TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP:** Discuss fundamental technology necessary for the world of IOWN.
  - » **LIAISON WORKING GROUPS:** Enhance the outside visibility of the forums liaisons approach and activities and prepare, setup, and maintain official liaison relationships relevant to the Forum's work.

PART TWO

# About Liaison Partnerships

# Messages from Working Group Chairs

## Use Case Working Group



**KATSUTOSHI ITOH**  
**CHAIR, IOWN GLOBAL FORUM USE CASE WG**  
**GM-HEAD OF CONNECTIVITY AND RF SENSING**  
**TECHNOLOGIES, R&D CENTER, SONY GROUP CORPORATION**

The Use Case WG welcomes new member companies and organizations to bring new ideas and use cases to evaluate how IOWN technologies may fulfill your needs. Since many use cases call for the integration of multiple technologies spanning from wireless transport to digital twin computing, the IOWN Global Forum aims to position itself as a complement to multiple ongoing industry initiatives.

Furthermore, as compulsory requirements for IOWN technology include scalability beyond today's imagination, energy efficiency to reduce carbon footprint, and economic efficiency, the IOWN Global Forum intends to engage with organizations and communities addressing evaluation-benchmark methodologies reflecting sustainability needs.

## Technology Working Group



**MASAHISA KAWASHIMA**  
**CHAIR, IOWN GLOBAL FORUM TECHNOLOGY WG**  
**HEAD OF IOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE R&D PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

The evolution of IOWN technology continuously aims to optimize both the networking and computing domains. It is important to note that the development of these two technology tracks is interconnected and mutually influential. As IOWN Computing evolves, it introduces new advancements and demands that impose subsequent requirements on IOWN Networking. Conversely, the evolution of IOWN Networking facilitates infrastructure upgrades that can elevate IOWN

Computing to new heights. The interplay between these two tracks creates a symbiotic relationship where advancements in one domain drive progress in the other.

Collaboration is essential for attaining combined IOWN Networking and Computing optimizations. The Forum recognizes the importance of this collaborative and interconnected approach and actively promotes cooperation across computer and networking technologies. Working together maximizes the possibility of synergistic advancements and optimizations.

# Working in Partnership

IOWN Global Forum envisions multiple types or levels of partnerships that would require respective liaison agreements. For the first two types, the forum has prepared default terms that can be used as a starting point to customize an individual agreement. Other types of partnership are also possible, but due to their unique nature and complexity, they are considered on a case-by-case basis. As a result, we list some of the basic features that should be expected, but we have not prepared a default agreement in advance.

## **TYPE-1 LIAISON AGREEMENT**

(no exchange of confidential information included)

- An official agreement of a liaison partnership
- Both organizations use the liaison to update and inform about matters of interest or request information (via liaison statements)
- The information exchanged may include non-confidential details (e.g., meeting dates/publications, roadmap, work program ..., etc.)
- Both organizations may define special areas of common interest that may further qualify the scope and intent of the liaison

## **TYPE-2 LIAISON AGREEMENT**

(including the exchange of confidential information)

- An official agreement of a liaison partnership
- Both organizations use the liaison to update and inform about matters of interest or request information (via liaison statements)
- The agreement enables technical collaboration on identified common areas of mutual interest about which both parties wish to communicate and share knowledge (which may include the exchange of Confidential Information via liaison statements)
- Both organizations will define special areas of common interest that will qualify the scope and intent of the liaison
- Both organizations may attend each other's meetings, in the context of exchanging information, on a request basis
- A partner in this type of agreement needs to be a legal entity

### **TYPE-3 LIAISON AGREEMENT**

(publishing specifications through an established process of an SDO)

- An official agreement of a liaison partnership
- A Liaison Agreement of this type will enable the publication of technical specifications/reports developed by the IOWN Global Forum via the external SDO
- Both parties need to agree on the process of publication of the technical specifications/report, including but not limited to:
  - » the handling of the text of technical specifications/reports (e.g., format, terminology, etc.)
  - » IPR associated with the technical specifications/reports
  - » procedures for possible future revision
- A partner in this type of agreement needs to be a legal entity

### **TYPE-4 LIAISON AGREEMENT**

(doing joint/collaborative work)

- In addition to the determinations of a Type 2 Liaison Agreement
- This Liaison Agreement enables both parties to establish a joint activity to produce outcomes utilizing the expertise of both organizations
- The joint activity may be a Joint Working Group or Joint Task Force and should be tailored considering the working structure and method of both parties
- The Liaison Agreement will include the structure of the joint activity, its work method, the approval process of the deliverables, and IPR issues
- A partner in this type of agreement needs to be a legal entity

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## Eligibility Criteria for Organization Liaisons



The IOWN Global Forum will be open for liaison by any corporation, partnership, association, trust, governmental body, or other entity interested in establishing liaison relationships in the activities of the IOWN Global Forum.

Patti Morin, Operations Director, IOWN Global Forum

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## IOWN GF Liaison Manager

The IOWN Global Forum defines the role of “*Liaison Managers*”—individuals managing the relationship between the IOWN Global Forum and a Liaison Partner. Ideally, such an individual should be a part of both organizations. At a minimum, their company must be a member of both organizations.



Hidetugu Sugiyama, Red Hat, Liaison Manager for the IOWN Global Forum and The Linux Foundation

PART THREE

# Task Forces, PoCs, and Early Adoption Use Cases

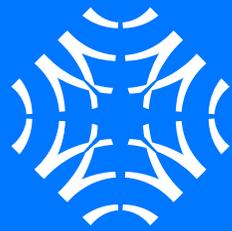
IOWN Global Forum defines use cases and functional architectures in the Use Case and Technology Working Groups through a set of focused **Task Forces**, which change over time as tasks are completed and new topics are addressed. The Liaison Working Group supports these groups in establishing and maintaining effective relationships with relevant organizations (SDOs and Industry Forums) in the ecosystem.

The decisive steps to generate impact are implementing the forum's key technology concepts, validating their technical advantages through a series of **PoCs**, and developing **Early Adoption Use Cases** to demonstrate the value and feasibility of IOWN Global Forum technologies across key industries.

Over the first five years, the IOWN Global Forum's member organizations have collaborated on a series of [technical papers](#), [implementation models](#), [proofs of concept](#), and [use case reports](#). The forum continuously updates its reference architectures and technologies to drive technological developments and industry trends. It collaborates with other consortia and SDOs to ensure **open and well-maintained technical specifications** so that anyone can implement systems following the reference system designs, with products available from open markets.

IOWN Global Forum's booth at the MWC 2025





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